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May 22, 2017

Ms. Lisa M. Fowlkes
Acting Bureau Chief
Federal Communications Commission
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: REPLY COMMENTS - Docket 13-87 and FCC Public Notice DA 17-251

Dear Acting Chief Fowlkes:

On May 1, 2017, the State of Maryland submitted Comments in the above referenced matter and joined the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council ("NPSTC"), National Regional Planning Council, and APCO International in recommending an alternative approach for the implementation of special 700 MHz air-ground radio channels in Canada. In the filings, it was recommended that Canada employ frequencies for air-ground communications in the 775-776 and 805-806 MHz frequency bands to prevent the loss of public safety frequencies or the potential of communications interference to American first responder communications frequencies including those used by the Maryland Department of State Police in the western part of our State.

The purpose of these Reply Comments to the Commission's Public Notice is to express the support of the Maryland Department of State Police in encouraging the FCC to negotiate with Canada to prevent the loss of 700 MHz radio channels as these are critical to our statewide Maryland FiRST public safety communications system. Of additional importance, our Aviation Command originated the concept of a dedicated frequency for aircraft landing zone coordination as this is an extremely dangerous part of emergency helicopter missions. As such, the Maryland Department of State Police strongly endorses the concept of reserving 774.61875 MHz, identified by the American National Standards Institute and NPSTC as "7AG88D" for emergency aircraft improvised landing zone coordination with ground based first responders.

Sincerely,

William M. Pallozzi
Secretary
Maryland Department of State Police

WMP:jkh

"Maryland's Finest"